Schemes for tribals

447. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to raise Central share in the scheme for improving the living conditions meant for tribals; and

(b) if so, to what extent and when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No proposal for increasing Central share in any of the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for improving the living conditions meant for tribals is under consideration.

Status of Kol tribes

448. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the people belonging to Kol tribes have been given the status of a tribe in Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons that such recognition has not been given to them in other States?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Kol Tribe has been notified as a Scheduled Tribe in the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa only. In addition in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Kol is listed as one of the ten tribal groups which fall under the generic term Andamenese. As no proposal has been received for inclusion of Kol community in their list of Scheduled Tribes from any other State Government, the question of granting recognition to the Kol community in other States does not arise.

Checking atrocities against women and children

449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is proposing to initiate any stringent measures to put a check on the atrocities committed on women and girl child and would change the deteriorating values which discriminate and victimize women;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any road map is drawn for its implementation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Action towards empowerment of women and for curbing of crimes against them to initiate change in the mindset of society towards the girl child and consider her as an asset and not a burden is an on going exercise as detailed in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Measures to put a check on the atrocities against women and children

Law and order and other criminal matters in a State subject under the Constitution and therefore, the direct responsibility for dealing with enforcement of the concerned Acts is that of the State Governments and the mechanisms under them. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes against women is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, the Government of India has initiated a number of measures to check such crimes, such as:—

Enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 which provides for more effective protection of the Constitutional Rights of women, who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family including any unlawful demand for dowry.

Setting up of helplines for women in distress under the Swadhar Scheme.

Support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counseling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided.

A scheme has been formulated on 13.11.2007 to change the mindset of the society towards the girl child and view her as an asset and not a burden, namely, "Conditional Cash Transfer with Insurance Cover Scheme". The scheme provides for cash transfers to family of the girl child (preferably the mother) on fulfilling certain conditionalities such as birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, enrolment to school; retention in school, delaying the marriage age beyond 18 years. Insurance cover is also proposed for the girl child as a safety net and to enable the girl to receive a lump sum at the age of 18 years.

Launching of a comprehensive scheme under the name "Ujjawala" on 4.12.2007 for victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The scheme has five components — Prevention, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Re-integration and Repatriation.

Redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women.

Organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps.

Implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban Programme and Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP).

Review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women.

Sensitization of judiciary and police and civil administration on gender issues.

Follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

Apart from legislative changes in the relevant Acts, instructions/guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women and monitor the enforcement and to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such

measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

* sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women
* vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence
* set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations
* provide institutional support to the victims of violence
* provide counseling to victims of rape
* take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters
* ensure wider recruitment of women police officers
* train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women
* setting up of Fast Track Courts
* setting up of Family Courts
* appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Process of child adoption

450. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that child adoption in the country is fraught with unnecessarily lengthy and complicated legal process deterring the potential adopters;

(b) whether Government would enact a uniform law that govern the process of child adoption in the country covering all citizens irrespective of faith they subscribe to; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The procedures governing in-country adoption and inter-country adoption have been provided under "Guidelines for In-country Adoption 2004 and Guidelines Adoption from India 2006" respectively. These guidelines replaced the earlier guidelines in order to bring more simplicity and transparency in adoption procedures. However, these guidelines are subject to regular review in order to make them more efficient and child friendly. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 along with Model Rules, 2007 under this Act, also seeks to provide a child friendly and simple adoption framework. Further, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 provides no restriction to adoption on account of sex, religion of the child or prospective parents.

Retention of orphans in care homes and orphanages

451. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that care homes and orphanages keep children upto the age of 18 years only and if so, what are the reasons therefor;